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65-7385

16 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Helms

Dick:

I am sorry I was unable to fill you in briefly on the results of the budget reclama. The attached sheet tells the story.

I met with the Director, Des FitzGerald, and Cord Meyer at which time the Director decided to accept this without appealing to the President.

With regard to NPIC, this is a question of judgment. The Bureau of the Budget has agreed to reopen the question if at any time we feel that we are in trouble. This is a fair proposition with which we can hardly argue.

Des thinks they cut us too deeply on Cuba, and Cord is very much concerned about a shortage of [redacted] in the Radios. However, at our meeting Des agreed to accept these cuts without a further reclama. Personally, I think we have enough money; in fact, with the frame of mind the President is in we may even consider ourselves lucky. If Cuba and the Radios do, in fact, have to have a little more money, I am sure we can get it through reprogramming.

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While we have agreed to accept the total figure for FY 1967, we are preparing a letter to the Director, BOB stating our concern about several of the items including NPIC, Cuba, the Radios, the Reserve, and the 1 1/4 percent personnel reduction.

I think the Director's decision not to make an appeal to the President is probably wise. The Director's judgment is that we might lose even more than we have already lost, and this indeed could be true.

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L. K. White

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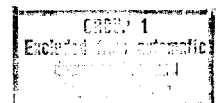
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